

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Gregory Sebald on July 1, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

With regards to claim 1, the phrase "and" is added between the phrase "a valve rod;" and "a sealable outlet opening" found in lines 7 and 8.

With regards to claim 2, the phrase "an" is deleted so the beginning of claim 2 line 2 reads "comprising expansion bellows"

With regards to claim 4, the phrase "an" is deleted and "bellow" is replaced with "bellows" so the beginning of claim 4 line 2 reads "comprising expansion bellows"

Still regarding claim 4, the phrase "is" is replaced with "are" so the middle of claim 4 line 2 reads "the expansion bellows are used to drive"

With regards to claim 14, the phrase "A metering device on" is deleted so the beginning of claim 14 line 1 reads "Holding furnace according to"

With regards to the specification, the phrase "is" is added to page 1 line 29 so it reads "The opening is semicircular or conical."

With regards to the specification, the line "The object is achieved according to the features of the claim." is deleted from page 2 lines 22-23.

With regards to the specification, the phrase "Oxides scan" is replaced with "Oxides can" in page 2 line 32.

With regards to the specification, the line "Additional advantageous embodiments are disclosed in the subclaims." is deleted from page 3 lines 1 and 2.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The particular structural arrangement wherein the metering chamber with the conveying tube is rotatably and tiltably mounted in the holding furnace wherein said furnace includes a metering chamber, conveying tube, riser, application site and valve rod is novel over the prior art.

The closest prior art, Nakagawa (WO 02/100574 using English equivalent EP 1407843) discloses all of the claim limitations of claim 1 except for the limitation wherein the metering chamber with the conveying tube is rotatably and tiltably mounted in the holding furnace (see [0004] and Figure 15(a) and 15(b)). As shown in Figures 15(a) and 15(b), the metering chamber is mounted in the holding furnace in a fixed manner.

The mounting of the metering chamber wherein it is rotatably and tiltably mounted in the holding furnace wherein said furnace includes a metering chamber, conveying tube, riser, application site and valve rod is found to be novel over the prior art and such an arrangement allowing for better adjustment between the conveying tube and application site. This would be advantageous in the dispensing of molten metal to the application site.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHRISTINE CHEN whose telephone number is (571)270-3590. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30am-5pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King can be reached on (571) 272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Roy King/

Application/Control Number: 10/553,023
Art Unit: 1793

Page 5

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 1793

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